

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-9, 11, 14-20, 23, 25, 27-31, 60-65 and 69-71 are currently pending in this application. By this amendment, Claims 1 has been amended to recite the limitations of original Claims 2 and 3, Claims 14 has been amended to provide proper dependency and Claim 15 has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis to the claims. Claims 3, 21, 22, 24, 26, 32-59, 61, 66-68, 73-90, and 93, which were withdrawn from consideration, have also been canceled. Applicants hereby reserve the right to prosecute the canceled claims, which were directed to non-elected species, in subsequently filed divisional applications. Applicants submit that no new matter has been introduced by this amendment. In view of the amendments above and the remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action mailed May 19, 2005, Claims 1, 4 and 72 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5, 108,379 ("379 patent"). Claims 5-9, 11, 14-65 and 69-71 were indicated to be allowed and Claim 3 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In order to expedite prosecution of this application, Claim 72 has been canceled and Claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form by incorporating the recitations of Claim 3 and intervening Claim 2 (previously canceled) into base Claim 1. As such, Applicants submit that Claim 1 as amended is allowable as indicated by the Examiner in the Office Action. Applicants reserve the right to further prosecute pre-amended Claim 1 and Claim 72 in a subsequently filed continuation application and traverse the outstanding rejection in view of the '379 patent. Claim

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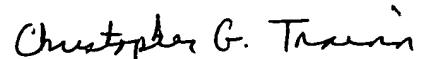
4 depends from Claim 1 and is also believed to be allowable.

The remaining claims in this application, namely Claim 5-9, 11, 14-20, 23, 25, 27-31, 60, 62-65 and 69-71, were all indicated by the Examiner to be allowed. Thus, all of the claims currently pending in this application are in condition for allowance.

It is respectfully submitted that each of the amendments above merely adopts the examiner suggestions and/or remove issues for appeal (See MPEP 714.13). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that each of the amendments be entered.

Early and favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone or personal interview may facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, he is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's attorney at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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